

**THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A housing for mounting communications equipment comprising:
  - a generally planar upper wall having a first edge and a second edge;
  - 5 a generally planar lower wall substantially parallel to and spaced from the upper wall, the lower wall having a first edge and a second edge; and
  - an outer wall extending between the first edge of the upper wall and the first edge of the lower wall, the outer wall forming an acute angle with one of the upper wall and the lower wall and forming an obtuse angle with the other of the upper wall and the lower wall.
2. A housing according to claim 1 further comprising an inner wall extending between the second edge of the upper wall and the second edge of the lower wall, the inner wall forming an acute angle with one of the upper wall and the lower wall and forming an obtuse angle with the other of the upper wall and the lower wall.
3. A housing according to claim 2 wherein at least one of the outer wall and the inner wall comprises a mounting flange having a plurality of holes formed therethrough for receiving a corresponding plurality of fasteners to secure the housing to an equipment rack.
- 20 4. A housing according to claim 2 wherein the inner wall is substantially parallel to and spaced from the outer wall.

- 10  
15  
20
5. A housing according to claim 1 wherein at least one equipment module is mounted within the housing.
6. A housing according to claim 5 wherein a plurality of equipment modules are mounted within the housing substantially parallel to the upper wall and the lower wall.
7. A housing according to claim 1 further comprising at least one routing guide attached to the inner wall.
8. A distribution frame for mounting communications equipment comprising:  
a plurality of uprights;  
a plurality of supports joining the uprights together to define a generally open, box-like equipment rack; and  
at least one housing secured to the equipment rack, the housing comprising  
a generally planar upper wall having a first edge and a second edge;  
a generally planar lower wall substantially parallel to and spaced from the upper wall, the lower wall having a first edge and a second edge; and  
an outer wall extending between the first edge of the upper wall and the first edge of the lower wall, the outer wall forming an acute angle with one of the upper wall and the lower wall and forming an obtuse angle with the other of the upper wall and the lower wall.

9. A distribution frame according to claim 8 wherein the housing further comprises an inner wall extending between the second edge of the upper wall and the second edge of the lower wall, the inner wall forming an acute angle with one of the upper wall and the lower wall and forming an obtuse angle with the other of the upper wall and the lower wall.

5

10. A distribution frame according to claim 9 wherein the inner wall is substantially parallel to and spaced from the outer wall.

10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
20

11. A housing according to claim 8 wherein at least one equipment module is mounted within the housing.

12. A housing according to claim 11 wherein a plurality of equipment modules are mounted within the housing substantially parallel to the upper wall and the lower wall.

15

13. A housing according to claim 8 further comprising at least one routing guide attached to the inner wall.

20

14. A distribution frame according to claim 8 wherein the at least one housing comprises a plurality of vertically stacked housings and wherein each of the housings comprises a plurality of equipment modules mounted within the housing such that the equipment modules are substantially parallel to one another.

15. A distribution frame according to claim 8 wherein the at least one housing comprises a plurality of housings that are stacked vertically in a pair of parallel, spaced apart columns, the columns of vertically stacked housings defining a center section therebetween for routing and storing a jumper cable between the housings.

5

16. A distribution frame according to claim 15 further comprising at least one equipment module mounted within at least one of the housings in each of the columns and wherein the equipment modules are connected by a single length jumper cable that is routed between the equipment modules such that the excess length of the jumper cable is stored within the center section.

17. An Interbay Storage Unit for use on a distribution frame in a communications network, the Interbay Storage Unit comprising:

a vertically disposed base; and

15 a plurality of storage hubs vertically spaced apart and extending outwardly from the

base;

wherein the base has at least one reduced width section disposed between adjacent storage hubs.

20 18. An Interbay Storage Unit according to claim 17 wherein the plurality of storage hubs comprises a plurality of pairs of storage hubs and wherein the base has a reduced width section disposed between each of the pairs of storage hubs.

19. An Interbay Storage Unit according to claim 17 wherein each of the plurality of storage hubs is medially disposed between a pair of laterally spaced apart fingers extending outwardly from the base.

5 20. An Interbay Storage Unit according to claim 19 further comprising a first section and a second section and wherein the fingers of the first section are laterally spaced apart a greater distance than the fingers of the second section.

10 21. An Interbay Storage Unit according to claim 17 further comprising at least one routing guide attached to the base.

15 22. A distribution frame for mounting communications equipment comprising:  
a plurality of uprights;  
a plurality of supports joining the uprights together to define a generally open, box-like equipment rack; and

an Interbay Storage Unit medially disposed between the uprights and secured to the equipment rack, the Interbay Storage Unit comprising

20 a vertically disposed base; and  
a plurality of storage hubs vertically spaced apart and extending outwardly from the base;  
wherein the base of the Interbay Storage Unit has at least one reduced width section disposed between adjacent storage hubs.

23. A distribution frame according to claim 22 wherein the plurality of storage hubs comprises a plurality of pairs of storage hubs and wherein the base has a reduced width section disposed between each of the pairs of storage hubs.
- 5 24. A distribution frame according to claim 22 wherein each of the plurality of storage hubs is medially disposed between a pair of laterally spaced apart fingers extending outwardly from the base.
- 10 25. A distribution frame according to claim 24 further comprising a first section and a second section and wherein the fingers of the first section are laterally spaced apart a greater distance than the fingers of the second section.
- 15 26. A distribution frame according to claim 22 further comprising at least one routing guide attached to the base.
27. A distribution frame comprising;
- a plurality of uprights;
- a plurality of supports joining the uprights together to define a generally open, box-like equipment rack;
- 20     at least one housing secured to the equipment rack, the housing comprising
- a generally planar upper wall having a first edge and a second edge;
- a generally planar lower wall substantially parallel to and spaced from the upper wall, the lower wall having a first edge and a second edge; and

an outer wall extending between the first edge of the upper wall and the first edge of the lower wall, the outer wall forming an acute angle with one of the upper wall and the lower wall and forming an obtuse angle with the other of the upper wall and the lower wall; and

- 5 an Interbay Storage Unit medially disposed between the uprights and secured to the equipment rack, the Interbay Storage Unit comprising

a vertically disposed base; and  
a plurality of storage hubs vertically spaced apart and extending outwardly from the base;

wherein the base of the Interbay Storage Unit has at least one reduced width section disposed between adjacent storage hubs.

28. A distribution frame according to claim 27 wherein the housing further comprises an inner wall extending between the second edge of the upper wall and the second edge of the lower wall, the inner wall forming an acute angle with one of the upper wall and the lower wall and forming an obtuse angle with the other of the upper wall and the lower wall.

29. A distribution frame according to claim 27 wherein the at least one housing comprises a plurality of vertically stacked housings and wherein the distribution frame further comprises at least one equipment module mounted within each of the housings.

30. A distribution frame according to claim 27 wherein the at least one housing comprises a plurality of housings stacked vertically in a pair of parallel, spaced apart columns that define

a center section therebetween and wherein the Interbay Storage Unit is disposed within the center section for routing and storing at least one jumper cable between the housings.

5       31. A distribution frame according to claim 30 further comprising at least one equipment module mounted within one of the housings of each of the columns and wherein the equipment modules are connected by a single length jumper cable such that the excess length of the jumper cable is stored within the Interbay Storage Unit.

10      32. A distribution frame according to claim 27 wherein the plurality of storage hubs comprises a plurality of pairs of storage hubs and wherein the base has a reduced width section disposed between each of the pairs of storage hubs.

15      33. A distribution frame according to claim 27 wherein each of the plurality of storage hubs is medially disposed between a pair of laterally spaced apart fingers extending outwardly from the base.

20      34. A distribution frame according to claim 33 further comprising a first section and a second section and wherein the fingers of the first section are laterally spaced apart a greater distance than the fingers of the second section.

25      35. A distribution frame according to claim 27 further comprising at least one routing guide attached to the base.

36. A distribution frame according to claim 28 wherein the at least one housing comprises  
a plurality of housings arranged in a vertical stacked orientation and further comprising a  
plurality of routing guides attached to the inner walls of the housings and arranged in a  
staggered orientation from the rear of the distribution frame to the front of the distribution  
5 frame.

37. A distribution frame comprising:

a plurality of uprights;  
a plurality of supports joining the uprights together to define a generally open, box-  
like equipment rack;  
at least one angled housing secured to each of the uprights of the equipment rack; and  
an Interbay Storage Unit medially disposed between the uprights and secured to the  
equipment rack;  
wherein the housings are connected by a jumper cable and the excess length of the  
jumper cable is routed and stored within the Interbay Storage Unit.

20 38. A distribution frame according to claim 37 wherein the at least one housing comprises  
a plurality of housings stacked vertically in a pair of parallel, spaced apart columns defining a  
center section therebetween and wherein the distribution frame further comprises at least one  
equipment module mounted within one of the housings of each of the columns, the equipment  
modules connected by a jumper cable routed through the center section such that the excess  
length of the jumper cable is stored within the Interbay Storage Unit.